



## GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 12, 2014**  
**10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
**Arizona State Capitol Executive Tower**  
**Third Floor Conference Room**  
**1700 West Washington Street**  
**Phoenix, Arizona 85007**

### **Council Members, Liaisons, and Participants Present**

Becky Brimhall-Lepire (Chair), Charles Brown, Patsy Gillis, Joy Grainger, Diane Joens, Deborah Lavinsky, Doyle Meredith, Lisa O'Neill, Allison Perrin, Melinda Preston, Trudy Schuett, Tonya Watson, C.T. Wright, Andrew Carlson, Elisa Davis, Cydney DeModica, Jay Dunkleberger, Kristin Fray, Vanessa Martin, Babak Nayeri and Cynthia Saverino

### **Council Members Absent**

George Evanoff and Teresa Ramirez Lopez

### **Council Staff, Interns Present**

Cathy De Lisa, Kim Jennings and Carolyn Sigler

### **Guests Present and Signing In**

W. Mark Clark and Annette Quinata

### **Call to Order & Welcome / Review & Approval of July 11, 2014, Draft Minutes**

Council Chair Becky Brimhall-Lepire called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. with a welcome and introductions. Draft minutes from the July 11, 2014, meeting were reviewed. *Diane Joens made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Allison Perrin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Age-Friendly Communities Initiative Endorsement**

Amy St. Peter, Human Services and Special Projects Manager with Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), who presented at the July meeting, provided a brief overview and update regarding pilot projects and efforts to build an Arizona Age-Friendly Network. After taking questions, Ms. St. Peter requested the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging's endorsement of the Arizona Age-Friendly Network Community Initiative.

*C.T. Wright made a motion to endorse the Arizona Age-Friendly Network Community Initiative; Charles Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging AZ4A**

Elisa Davis, Director of WACOG Area Agency on Aging Region IV, presented an overview of the role of Area Agencies on Aging in Arizona, their ties to the national and state aging network, and funding sources. Ms. Davis stressed the importance of Congressional reauthorization and funding of the Older Americans Act. When asked what the Council on Aging could do to support the Area Agencies, Ms. Davis indicated members could contact state legislators and members of Congress to request funding of programs AZ4A provides for older and vulnerable adults throughout Arizona. The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) website was referenced as a source for more information: <http://www.n4a.org/>.

A copy of the *Arizona Area Agency on Aging Network* presentation is available for review through the Council on Aging office.

### **Liaison Reports**

*Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS)* – Kristin Fray, Admissions Coordinator, Arizona State Veterans' Home reported:

- Ground was broken for the future Northern Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery on Camp Navajo, west of Flagstaff, on September 6, 2014. The projected completion date is December 2015.
- Veterans can now pre-register information with the Arizona State Veteran Cemeteries to ease the burden on families when it is time to plan a veteran's or spouse's funeral. Applications are also being accepted for future cemeteries.
- On October 11, 2014, The Missing in America Project (MIAP) will be escorting the remains of several veterans to the Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery for a proper memorial service and military burial.
- In response to the increased number of women serving our nation, the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, in partnership with the Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, will hold the Arizona Military/Veteran Women's Health and Knowledge Fair on September 27.

*Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Division of Aging & Adult Services (DAAS)* – Cindy Saverino, Independent Living Supports Administrator reported:

- The 2015-2018 State Plan on Aging was submitted to the Administration for Community Living and goes into effect October 1, 2014 for the next four-year cycle.
- Adult Protective Services (APS) is in the process of filling 30 new positions; 21 new hires have been completed to date.
- DAAS has requested funds for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2016 for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) and APS.
- The DES Office of Faith and Community Partnerships is now the Governor's Office of Faith and Community Partnerships and is in the process of moving into the Executive Tower.

*Arizona Indian Council on Aging (AICOA)* – No report received.

*Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)* – Jay Dunkleberger reported on AHCCCS strategic initiatives.

- Movement on building the professionalism of Direct Care Workers (DCW) providing services to AHCCCS members now includes reporting of training completed. The website

databases soft launch of the reporting involving 200 users went well and will expand to all users in October.

- Olmstead Act – AHCCCS is updating with the Division of Developmental Disabilities and Arizona Department of Health Services; public comment will be taken in October.
- As Ginny Rountree reported at the July Social, Health & Alzheimer's meeting, the Home and Community Based Services rule change by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) should not result in significant changes in Arizona. The Department of Labor will oversee overtime rule changes for direct care workers.

*Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT)* – Cydney Demodica reported:

- ADOT had been working to address flooding issues caused by recent historic levels of rain.
- The new State Highway Safety Plan will be out soon and includes information regarding older driver safety.
- The new driver license process challenges have been resolved. Veteran and Organ Donor designations can be included on the new licenses.
- The Grand Driver brochure is currently being uploaded to the website so families and drivers have access to information regarding unsafe driving.

*Attorney General's Office (AG)* – Vanessa Martin reported that of the 38 bills to be proposed to the legislature from the AG's office, five or six focus on older adults and the office has prioritized elder abuse issues. Ms. Martin reported prescription drop off boxes are being provided to law enforcement offices to make disposal of prescriptions easier for the public. The next Attorney General will be elected in November, and according to Ms. Martin, both candidates have prioritized older adult issues. Ms. Martin reminded the Council that the Attorney General's office has satellite offices around the state which make it easier for elderly Arizonans to contact the AG's office in person.

The Executive Director apologized for leaving Andrew Carlson off the agenda and the Council Chair welcomed Mr. Carlson as the new representative from the *Arizona Department of Insurance*. Mr. Carlson reported the Department of Insurance (DOI) is re-designing their website and has hired a new public information officer, Stephen Clutter. Mr. Carlson stated there are no legislative proposals from DOI for the next session at this time.

*Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)* – Babak Nayeri reported that ADHS is collaborating with the AG's office and law enforcement on projects like the prescription drug drop-off boxes, calls to emergency responders around fall prevention, and end of life or life care planning. Dr. Nayeri announced that on September 26, 2014 the ADHS Director, Will Humble will help launch the Arizona Healthy Aging Report in collaboration with the Arizona Fall Prevention Coalition meeting. According to Dr. Nayeri, the priorities for the Plan include chronic disease management, fall prevention and Alzheimer's.

### **Break**

The Council Chair called for a break at 11:30 a.m. to prepare for a working lunch then reconvened at 11:44 a.m.

### **Council Chair Report & Discussion**

Council Chair Becky Brimhall-Lepire reported having encouraged Council members who are seeking reappointments to complete the process as soon as possible. According to the Council Chair, a request is being made to try and have appointments and reappointments completed by the Annual Planning meeting. The Council Chair thanked the Council for the opportunity to attend the National Indian Council on Aging conference in early September and also thanked the Governor's Office for inviting her to represent Governor Brewer in opening remarks at the conference. Council Chair Becky Brimhall-Lepire reported an idea had been proposed to have a dinner on Thursday evening, November 6<sup>th</sup> following the first day of the Annual Planning meeting as the group has done in the past. According to the Council Chair, the dinner would be purely social and a courtesy agenda would be posted indicating such since a quorum of the Council members may be present; staff were asked to explore options.

### **Executive Director's Report, Office Updates & Discussion**

Executive Director Cathy De Lisa reported requests to the Council included the invitation to the Council Chair to provide opening remarks on behalf of the Governor at the National Indian Council on Aging, for Past Chairman, Mr. C.T. Wright to provide information to a group in Pebble Creek, for the Executive Director to hear a presentation on the RightCare Foundation and the Council Chair would be joining that presentation, and for representation to the statewide Oral Health Coalition. Ms. De Lisa reported Doyle Meredith has been asked to represent the Council on the new statewide Oral Health Coalition based on his previous work to raise awareness of concerns around affordable and accessible dental care for older and vulnerable adults. The Executive Director also reported Mr. Meredith will be representing the Council at the AARP Andrus Award luncheon honoring former council member Bernie Hoffman. Ms. De Lisa reported Aging 2020 agency staff leads will meet on September 22, 2014 and that the Alzheimer's Plan had been delayed as the Planning Group works to incorporate the more than 100 recommendations from the Work Teams. The Executive Director stated work continued on transition planning related to the election of a new Governor.

### **Committee Reports**

*Executive Committee* – Council Chair Becky Brimhall-Lepire reported 2015 Senior Action Days planning is underway and that the Executive Council is considering the last week of September and the first week of October 2015 as a potential timeframe pending input from legislative leadership. Council Chair Brimhall-Lepire requested that Council Members provide suggestions to the Executive Director on locations and ideas for partnering with their local legislators to co-sponsor the events. The Council Chair reminded Council Members that the group would be asked to consider and take action on the Ad Hoc recommendations that included the background wish list for Council members. According to the Council Chair, details including objectives, strategies and action steps on goals would be hammered out at the annual planning meeting and that staff were exploring the feasibility of arranging for a professional facilitator to guide the process. The Council Chair reported that any updates to the By-Laws including those resulting from the Ad Hoc recommendations would be provided to the Council and posted ensuring a 30-day review prior to any vote.

*Ad Hoc Committee on Review & Revitalization and Public Relations* – Tonya Watson provided a visual summary of the work of the Ad Hoc group then outlined and highlighted three minor changes from discussions at the August 22, 2014 Ad Hoc meeting made to the recommendations as

distributed at the July GACA meeting. Following a brief discussion, the Council Chair called for a motion on the recommendations. *Doyle Meredith made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee and move forward to improve the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging; Deborah Lavinsky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Ms. Watson thanked the Council Members for their approval and asked that they provide any suggestions, input or feedback to Executive Director Cathy De Lisa for compiling prior to the November planning meeting. A copy of the handout used by Ms. Watson is available for review through the Council on Aging office.

*Legislative and Policy Coordinating Committee (LPCC)* – C.T. Wright reported that more 20 legislators and staff responded to the invitation to attend the committee meeting and that special events remembering September 11, 2001 created conflicts for many of those unable to attend. According to the LPCC Committee Chair, Senator David Farnsworth, Representative Debbie McCune Davis, Ingrid Garvey on behalf of Representative Kate Brophy McGee, Jennifer Harris on behalf of Representative Lela Alston and Diane Langlois, Assistant to Senator Barbara McGuire attended the meeting, reviewed and discussed the Council's draft advocacy priorities as well as others issues raised by the LPCC members. Mr. Wright reported the committee will continue working on the legislative priorities for the next session and consider how best to reach out to newly-elected officials following the November election.

*Mature Workforce Committee (MWC)* – Diane Joens provided a review of the presentation from Paula Wright of the AARP Foundation on their Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and noted that Ms. Wright reported the AARP Foundation is seeing more educated workers looking for employment than in the past.

*Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee (SHAC)* – Allison Perrin reported the following:

- Pam Wessel of Pima Council on Aging, (PCOA) presented on their suicide prevention program that includes the safeTALK and ASIST training programs.
- Nancy Kiflemariam of the City of Phoenix Community Initiative/Employment Initiatives distributed a save-the-date flyer regarding two Medicare Assistance Enrollment and Resource Fairs on October 25, 2014 and November 15, 2014.
- Mary Busch of A.T. Still University provided an overview of regional oral health coalitions and reported on efforts to build a statewide coalition.
- The Planning Group of the Alzheimer's Task Force is extending their timeline for completion of the plan in order to fully consider the 100 recommendations provided by the four Work Teams.

## **Council Member Reports**

### *Council Members' Aging Related Updates*

- C.T. Wright acknowledged the attendance at the GACA meeting noting only two members absent.
- Joy Grainger invited the Council members to Mercy Housing's "Live in Hope" luncheon on October 21, 2014.
- Diane Joens reported on plans to attend the Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG) Area Agency meeting on October 8, 2014 and the NACOG annual conference on October 16, 2014.

- Patsy Gillis reported on the Attorney General's Task Force Against Senior Abuse (TASA) health care committee meeting and their discussion on fall prevention, injury prevention, advanced directives, and Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST).
- Allison Perrin reminded members that the Arizona Geriatric Society's annual fall conference is November 14-15, 2014 in Phoenix.
- Becky Brimhall-Lepire reported the National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) four priorities for 2015 are: elder abuse, long-term care services, financial and estate planning and retirement and security.
- Lisa O'Neill reported that she will be attending the southern Arizona segment of the Arizona Fall Prevention Coalition.
- Trudy Schuett reported Area Agency on Aging Region IV received a \$40,000 grant from Walmart for the Bullhead City Senior Nutrition Center.

### **Call to Public**

No public responding to the call to the public.

### **Adjourn**

*The meeting was adjourned by Council Chair Becky Brimhall-Lepire at 1:04 pm.*

### **Next Meeting**

**The next meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging is tentatively scheduled for January 9, 2015; date, time and location to be determined and announced by public meeting notice posted at the GACA website: [www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/](http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/). These meetings are open to the public.**